



National Influenza Vaccination Week

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's third annual National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is December 8-14, 2008. Begun in 2006, NIVW is a joint effort of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC, the National Influenza Vaccine Summit, and other immunization partners. NIVW was created to promote timely flu vaccination and to remind people who have not yet been vaccinated that the time to get a flu vaccine continues into winter- through January or later, when the influenza season typically peaks.

This is an excellent opportunity to promote late-season vaccination. It is important to get the message out into the community that the opportunity to get vaccinated for flu is still available. Vaccination for influenza should continue through April 2009 as peak influenza activity for Kentucky has usually occurred between February and March of each season. Local health departments, public health partners, and providers are encouraged to enhance vaccine availability by scheduling additional clinics, extending clinic hours, and facilitating mass vaccination in retail and other locations during NIVW and through the remainder of the influenza season.



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Specialty Groups

This year, certain days have been assigned to focus flu vaccination awareness activities on special populations:

- Tuesday, December 9th, is designated as "Children's Vaccination Day."
- Thursday, December 11th, is designated as "Seniors' Vaccination Day."
- Friday, December 12th, is designated as "Healthcare Workers Vaccination Day."



Flu Vaccination Efforts in Kentucky's Local Health Departments

- **Anderson County Health Department** has reported good turnout at flu clinics, having used over 80% of their flu vaccine supply of at this point.
- **Barren River District Health Department** has used over 6000 doses of flu vaccine by holding flu clinics across the district, both in the health departments and offsite. Flu clinics were held at adult daycares, long-term care facilities, factories, business offices, restaurants, medical offices, schools, churches, and various other venues. Barren River District Health Department continues to administer flu shots in all eight of their clinics daily (with a few more clinics still planned), and will be working with the school nurses to push for flu vaccination of students.
- **Boyle County Health Department** reports excellent turnout for all clinics and off-sites, planning to advertise on their local radio station until they have expended their supply of flu vaccine.
- **Clark County Health Department** began flu clinics earlier this year with a successful indoor and drive-through clinic held on the same day. Clark County Health Department has held three flu clinics in their basement (providing patients easier access), and one children's flu clinic. All have been successful with good turn-outs. Clark County Health Department has vaccinated many local businesses, teachers, and city and county employees off-site as well as continuing to schedule appointments for flu shots daily and welcoming walk-ins. They plan to vaccinate one business of 30-40 people, and Home Health patients.
- **Floyd County Health Department** has used 90% of their 2000 dose order through scheduled appointments.

Many Kentucky Health Departments report successful flu vaccination efforts.

- **Franklin County Health Department** has used approximately 70% of their flu vaccine supply, holding flu clinics throughout the community at a pharmacy, a Senior Citizens Center, local businesses, government offices, and facilities that care for high-risk individuals. Franklin County Health Department held a free drive-through clinic as an emergency preparedness exercise, administering 321 shots in 2 ½ hours and receiving positive feed-back from the community. Franklin County Health Department is considering holding another free flu clinic before the end of flu season.
- **Laurel County Health Department** has used approximately 75% of their vaccine by holding a flu clinic and having patients coming in on a steady basis. Laurel County Health Department has offered immunization at all of their local schools, government offices, and banking establishments with good results.

Franklin County Health Department held a free drive-through flu clinic as an emergency preparedness exercise.

- **Lexington-Fayette County Health Department** held two very successful "kick-off" events, providing over 3200 free flu shots to the community. As of October 31st, they had administered nearly 2500 doses in Public Health and Primary Care Clinics. They held community clinics in various locations throughout the months of October and November. They have used most of their 8000 doses, and purchased 1500 additional doses from other counties.
- **Magoffin County Health Department** continues to hold flu clinics Monday-Friday 9:00am to 12:00 noon.
- **Pike County Health Department** ordered more flu vaccine this year and administered more flu vaccine this year than last year. They held a free event at the start of the season and administered over 500 doses in two hours!!!



Vaccinating Healthcare Providers

FDA Urges Vaccination Programs for Healthcare Personnel

Medscape (11/04/08) Barclay, Laura

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is urging healthcare personnel to get vaccinated against the flu in order to protect themselves and the patients they come in contact with from the virus. According to the FDA, healthcare personnel—which includes individuals working in healthcare settings where they could be exposed to patients and/or infectious material as well as those not directly involved in patient care—should be vaccinated each year if they work in acute care hospitals, urgent care centers, physician's offices, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, and nursing homes. The FDA also called on healthcare organizations to make sure that these healthcare workers have access to flu vaccination programs. The FDA's advice comes on the heels of several studies that have shown there is a significant benefit to ensuring that healthcare personnel receive the flu vaccine. A study at one hospital over 12 flu seasons found that the percentage of healthcare personnel with laboratory-confirmed influenza fell from 42 percent to 9 percent when the percentage of personnel receiving the flu vaccine rose. In addition, the percentage of patients with nosocomial influenza fell from 32 percent to 0 percent over the same period of time.



FDA is urging healthcare personnel to get vaccinated against the flu

Vaccinating Pregnant Women

Immunizing Pregnant Women a Defense Against Infant Flu

By Peggy Peck, Executive Editor, MedPage Today

CINCINNATI, Sept. 17 -- Flu vaccine given to pregnant women appears to protect their babies after they are born from influenza and febrile respiratory illnesses, researchers here reported.

Flu vaccine given to pregnant women appears to protect their babies after they are born from influenza.

The maternal vaccination reduced cases of influenza in babies by 63% and reduced febrile respiratory illness in babies by 29% and by 36% in mothers, according to Mark C. Steinhoff, M.D., of the Children's Global Health Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and colleagues.

The full article, "**Effectiveness of Maternal Influenza Immunization in Mothers and Infants,**" is available online, <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMoa0708630>

Media Releases

Communications issued to the public during flu season are an integral element for improving immunization coverage rates. The Department for Public Health has posted a series of prepared media releases pertinent to influenza season activities on the Health Alert Network. The information contained in these releases addresses many different aspects of influenza, from hand washing to optimum times for vaccination. These releases can be customized and made available in communities either by publishing in the local newspaper, dispersal in clinics, distribution to local providers, or all of the above. These releases are available on the Health Alert Network (HAN) in the Prepared Media Releases folder.



Communications during flu season help improve coverage.



Flu Activity

States report influenza activity to the CDC weekly using the following guidelines:

No Activity: No laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza and no reported increase in the number of cases of ILI.

Sporadic: Small numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of ILI.

Local: Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory-confirmed influenza in a single region of the state.

Regional: Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI and recent laboratory confirmed influenza in at least two but less than half the regions of the state with recent laboratory evidence of influenza in those regions.

Widespread: Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory-confirmed influenza in at least half the regions of the state with recent laboratory evidence of influenza in the state.

Kentucky is currently at a “no activity” level.

Influenza surveillance is important for several reasons:

Influenza viruses are constantly changing which requires ongoing collection and characterization of the strains.

- Influenza strains can rapidly undergo changes leading to pandemics of influenza; surveillance of viruses will detect these changes.
- Vaccines must be administered annually and are updated regularly based on surveillance findings.
- Treatment for influenza is guided by laboratory surveillance for antiviral resistance.
- National responses to emerging pandemic strains are triggered by surveillance data.
- Varying segments of the population are affected by influenza and may require targeted interventions. These groups are determined through influenza surveillance.

National responses to emerging pandemic strains are triggered by surveillance data.

A low level of influenza activity is reported in the United States.

Kentucky is currently at a “no activity” level. There have been no laboratory-confirmed cases reported so far this flu season. The most current available data on influenza activity in the United States:

- Local influenza activity was reported by one state (Hawaii).
- Sporadic activity was reported in the District of Columbia and 19 states (including Indiana).
- No influenza activity was reported in 29 states (including Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia).

Kentucky Immunization Program

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Resources:

The “Flu Gallery” located on the CDC’s influenza website is a great source of educational materials. These materials reflect the CDC’s vaccination recommendations and highlight the benefits of influenza vaccination. The Gallery contains print materials such as flyers, posters, and brochures, in color and black and white, in English and Spanish. Many of the materials can be reproduced on an office printer. The materials can also be printed by a professional (offset) printer. As information changes, new materials are added to the online gallery. To visit the flu gallery, got to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flugallery/index.htm>

Participating in National Influenza Vaccination Week:

- To visit the CDC’s NIVW web page, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/>
- To add an upcoming flu vaccination-related event to the CDC’s online calendar, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/form.htm>
- To see what flu vaccination-related activities others are doing both close to home and across the country, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivwactivities.htm>
- To access NIVW key messages and tips for planning effective media events, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/resources.htm>
- To visit the CDC’s flu website for a variety of other flu-related e-tools and information for professionals and patients alike for use during NIVW and beyond, got to: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/?s_cid=internal6

Local Health Department’s Planned Events for National Influenza Vaccination Week

- Floyd County Health Department is planning a drive through flu clinic on December 9th from 9:00-1:00.
- Lexington-Fayette County Health Department is holding a flu clinic at Joseph Beth Booksellers on Tuesday evening, 12/09/08, beginning at 6:30.
- Magoffin County Health Department is planning some extra media activities for NIVW and continues to hold flu clinics Monday-Friday 9:00am to 12:00noon.

This is the second issue of Flu Flash. For suggestions or to contribute to future issues, please contact Emily Adkins, RN—Editor
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